

Problems afflicting Indian Tourism Industry

1198. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the newsreport appearing in the Hindu dated 8th July, 2001 under the caption, "Trying times for tourism industry";
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) the measures proposed to be adopted to address the problems afflicting the Indian Tourism as highlighted in the report, so as to promote the growth of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is aware of the various issues involved in the development of tourism sector and accordingly has formulated a Draft National Tourism Policy which focuses on Welcome (swagat), Information (suchana), Facilitation (suvidha), Safety (suraksha), Cooperation (sahyog) and Infrastructure development (samrachana).

(c) Various steps taken/proposed to be taken to promote tourism in India include development and improvement of tourist facilities, infrastructure development, augmentation of air seat capacity, publicity and marketing efforts in the foreign countries, use of information technology to provide facilities to tourists and encouraging private investment in tourism sector.